

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 5 and 17-20 have been withdrawn. The Examiner has indicated that claim 11 was withdrawn in paragraph no. 1 on page of the Office Action. However, claim 11 clearly reads on **Fig. 1** of elected Species I. See the paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16 of the Specification. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 1 and 15.

The Examiner has failed to consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 17, 2001. Copies of the IDS filed on July 17, 2001, the 5 cited references, and the stamped postcard receipt are provided herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the IDS filed on July 17, 2001.

The drawings were objected to for failing to designate Figs. 48-50 as --Prior Art--. Applicants have amended Figs. 48-50 in the accompanying Request for Approval of Proposed Drawing Corrections to properly be designated as --Prior Art--. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Applicants affirm election of Species I, including claims 1-4 and 6-16. The Examiner has indicated that claim 1 is generic. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request, upon the allowance of claim 1, that the Examiner consider and allow claims 5 and 17-20.

Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

The Examiner has alleged in the first paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action that claim 7 is indefinite because "it is not clear how the ground electrode can be on the 'first' main surface when the 'metallic film' is recited in claim 1 as being on the 'first main surface.'" However, claim 1 recites "a metallic film having an opening for coupling two resonance modes and disposed on the first main surface of the dielectric substrate or **inside of the dielectric substrate**" (emphasis added). Thus, when the metallic film is disposed inside of the dielectric material, the ground electrode can clearly be disposed

on the first main surface. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is clear and definite.

Applicants' amended claim 15 to correct the minor informalities noted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. 5,623,238). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-16.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"A dual mode band-pass filter comprising:  
a dielectric substrate having first and second main surfaces;  
**a metallic film having an opening for coupling two resonance modes** and disposed on the first main surface of the dielectric substrate or inside of the dielectric substrate;  
at least one ground electrode disposed on the second main surface of the dielectric substrate or inside of the dielectric substrate, so as to be opposed to the metallic film through a dielectric layer; and  
a pair of input-output coupling circuits connected to different portions of the metallic film ." (emphasis added)

Applicants' claim 1 recites the feature of "a metallic film having an opening for coupling two resonance modes." With the improved features of claim 1, Applicants have been able to provide a miniaturized dual mode band-pass filter that has a greatly improved coupling degree that is easily adjusted and has a very high design flexibility (see, for example, the first full paragraph on page 5 of the Specification).

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Takahashi et al. shows a filter. However, the Examiner never addresses the feature of "a metallic film having an opening for coupling two resonance modes" as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Takahashi et al. states in lines 19-21 of column 19 (cited by the Examiner) that "two orthogonal modes formed of the non-reflected waves and the reflected waves INDEPENDENTLY coexist"

(emphasis added), **NOT** that two resonance modes are c \_upled as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Takahashi et al. and the other prior art made of record, applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claim 1 of the present application. Claims 2-20 depend upon generic claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

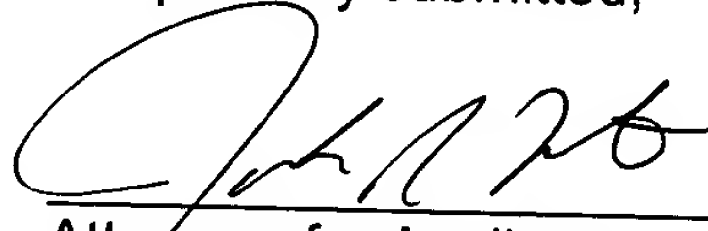
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a TWO-month extension of time, extending to March 7, 2003, the period for response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2002.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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